

**School Committee Finance Subcommittee**  
**Monday, May 11, 2020**  
10:30 AM-11:00 AM  
Remote by Webex Event

Finance Subcommittee members present: Susan Wolf Dittkoff (Chair), Sharon Abramowitz, Suzanne Federspiel, and David Pearlman.

Other School Committee members present: Helen Charlupski.

Staff present: Ben Lummis, Mary Ellen Normen, Donna Chisholm, and Robin Coyne.

Others present: Advisory Committee members Michael Sandman, Cliff Brown, Dennis Doughty, Janet Gelbart, David Lescohier, Paul Warner, and Carla Benka.

Ms. Dittkoff called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

**1) Update on FY 2020 Budget, including Budget Impact of COVID-19**

Ms. Normen provided an update on the FY 2020 Budget. She noted some of the areas her department is addressing, including retroactive salary adjustments for union employees, liquidation of encumbrances, the status of revolving funds and contractual services, and savings from spring sports. The district has been discussing possible cost savings measures, including furloughs and limiting vacation buy-backs. At the next meeting, Ms. Normen will be able to provide a more detailed list of potential cost reductions by budget category and next steps (including discussions with the Unions).

**2) Update/Discussion of FY 2021 Budget, including Budget Impact of COVID-19**

Mr. Lummis and Ms. Normen provided an update on the FY 2021 Budget. The district has been preparing a range of options/amounts for potential reductions (includes central administration, district-wide programs, building based positions, and expense items). The administration is prepared to present a recommendation once the Town provides a revenue update at the next Town-School Partnership meeting. Mr. Lummis commented that staff are developing three possible approaches to learning for the coming year that will feed into budget planning. Subcommittee members suggested having School Committee members and others participate in the development of options.

**3) Discussion of Brookline Fiscal Advisory Committee (BFAC) Recommendations-School Priorities and Next Steps**

Mr. Pearlman stated that once he receives input from all School Committee members, he will compile a list of priorities. Ms. Dittkoff offered to work with Mr. Pearlman to frame possible motions for School Committee consideration on principles and areas of focus.

**4) Review/Approval of the April 23, 2020 and May 6, 2020 Finance Subcommittee Minutes**

On a motion of Ms. Federspiel and seconded by Mr. Pearlman, the Finance Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call; Dr. Abramowitz was not present for the vote) to approve the April 23, 2020 Finance Subcommittee meeting minutes.

On a motion of Ms. Federspiel and seconded by Mr. Pearlman, the Finance Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call; Dr. Abramowitz was not present for the vote) to approve the May 6, 2020 Finance Subcommittee meeting minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.